

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 remain pending in the current Application. No amendments have been made herein.

Rejection of claims 1-5 and 8-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-5 and 8-19 are patentable over US Patent No. 5, 411, 358 (hereinafter referred to as Garric).

With respect to claims 1, 10, 15, each of these claims includes a plurality of mask containers, each mask container having an electronic device having a receiver unit for receiving lithography data from a lithography bay, a memory for storing the lithography data, a processor unit for reading or writing the lithography data to or from the memory, and a transmitter unit for transmitting the lithography data. Applicants submit that Garric does not teach or suggest these limitations. The Examiner primarily cites col. 28, lines 8-30, of Garric; however, column 28 discloses the use of a label or bar code tag which does not teach or suggest the elements recited above of claims 1, 10, and 15. That is, a bar code tag (such as the bar code tag of D1) does *not* include a receiver unit, a processor which reads and/or writes from the memory, and a transmitter unit, as clearly claimed in each of claims 1, 10, and 15. Firstly, the bar code tag 148 itself is not memory, accessible by a processor, for storing the lithography data. However, even if it is assumed that the bar code tag is a memory, the cassette reservoir 123 having the bar code tag does not include a receiver, a processing unit, and a transmitter. Furthermore, the Examiner, with respect to these elements of claims 10 and 15, also cites reader units 604. However, these reader units in Garric are disposed at appropriate locations of the conveyor system and are not on each mask container, as claimed in each of claims 1, 10, and 15. That is, Garric does not disclose a mask container (or any type of container) having a processing unit. Also, with respect to the transmitter unit (located on each mask container and used to transmit the lithography data read from the memory), even if the Examiner assumes the bar code tag to be the memory, nothing on the bar code tag or cassette reservoir of Garric transmits the bar code data. Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicant submits that each of claims 1, 10, and 15 are allowable over Garric. Claims 2-9, 11-14, 16-17 depend directly or indirectly from allowable claims 1, 10, and

15 and are therefore also allowable for at least those reasons stated with respect to claims 1, 10, and 15.

Garric also does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 18. For example, claim 18 includes a plurality of mask containers, each mask containing having an electronic tracking device having a receiver unit for receiving first lithography data, a memory for temporarily storing the first lithography data, a processor unit for processing the first lithography data and for providing second lithography data, and a transmitter unit for transmitting the second lithography data. As discussed above, the bar code tag of Garric does not teach or even suggest these limitations. The bar code tag, for example, is not a memory for temporarily storing the first lithography data and also does not include a processor unit for processing the first lithography data and for providing second lithography data. Furthermore, the bar code tag does not include a transmitter or receiver as claimed in claim 18. Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 18 is allowable over Garric.

Garric also does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 19. For example, claim 19 claims a method of operation a semiconductor device manufacturing system having a plurality of mask containers, each having a tracking device for transmitting and receiving data corresponding to the mask within the container. The Examiner again cites col. 28 of Garric, which, as discussed above, describes a bar code tag which does not include a receiver or a transmitter as claimed in claim 19. Furthermore, claim 19 claims selecting two or more containers on the basis of the received lithography data from the plurality of mask containers and operating a first automatic handling device so as to group together the selected containers in the form of a stack. Garric also does not teach or suggest these elements. That is, in claim 19, the first automatic handling device receives lithography data which it then uses to group selected containers. The cited sections of Garric refer to the interface apparatus 200 and the reader unit 604A. Firstly, the interface apparatus is used to perform automatic wafer transfer operation between the container and the processing equipment without breaking the protective gaseous environment (see, e.g., col. 12, lines 7-12, and col. 40 of Garric) where in various embodiments, this interface apparatus can operate on a single wafer using a single in/out port structure or a dual port structure with separate in and out sections (this latter one illustrated in FIGs. 10-13 of Garric). Therefore, this interface apparatus is simply meant to transfer wafers in different ways and does not teach or even suggest the ability to receive lithography data from a plurality of

mask containers and, based on this information, group the selected containers in the form of a stack, as claimed in claim 19. While the interface apparatus may be adapted to operate with piles, this does not teach or suggest the ability to form a stack of containers, it simply means that the interface apparatus may transfer wafers to/from a pile of containers (using, for example, a lift device and indexing means). Secondly, the bar code readers 604, described in col. 19 of Garric, are able to read the bar code tags of the containers, but there is no teaching or suggestion in Garric that readers 604 are able to receive lithography data and, based on this information, *group the selected containers* in the form of a stack. Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 19 is allowable over Garric.

Conclusion

Although Applicants may disagree with other statements made by the Examiner in reference to the claims and the cited references, Applicants are not discussing all these statements in the current Office Action, yet reserve the right to address them at a later time if necessary.

Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of the pending claims. Contact me if there are any issues regarding this communication or the current Application.

If Applicant has overlooked any additional fees, or if any overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit or debit Deposit Account 503079, Freescale Semiconductor, Inc.

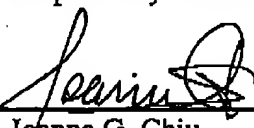
Respectfully submitted,

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